

LVII.—*Description of Two new Species of Fishes*
(*Mastacembelus and Barbus*). By Dr. A. GÜNTHER.*Mastacembelus shiranus*.

D. 27 or 29 | 66. A. 2/68. C. 14.

Trunk and tail compressed, of moderate length, its greatest depth being three fifths of the length of the head. Length of the head without appendage about one third of its distance from the vent. Tail equal in length to the rest of the body. Rostral appendage a little longer than the eye, which is small. Præoperculum without spines. Dorsal spines short, the distance of the foremost from the operculum being scarcely half of the length of the head.

Greyish olive, finely marbled and reticulated with brown; a black longitudinal band on the side of the head, through the eye, another similar band along the middle of the crown of the head.

Two specimens, of which the larger is 10 inches long, were sent by Mr. H. H. Johnston, from the Upper Shiré River, to the Natural History Museum.

The genus *Mastacembelus*, and probably this species, occurs also in the Victoria Nyanza; at least, I am unable to discover distinctive characters in a specimen $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. long found by Mr. E. J. Baxter in that Lake. So far as I can make out from its somewhat desiccated condition, the fin-formula would be :—D. 30 | 60. A. 2/60.

In my description of *Mastacembelus tanganicæ* Proc. Zool. Soc. 1893, p. 629) the length of the tail should have been described as being but little more than two fifths of the total length.

Barbus faoensis.D. 11. A. 8. L. lat. 28. L. transv. $\frac{5}{4}$.

Osseous dorsal ray strong, not denticulated; two and a half series of longitudinal scales between the lateral line and the root of the ventral. Body oblong, compressed, its height being contained thrice and one fourth in the length (without caudal), the length of the head four times. Eye rather small, two fifths of the width of the interorbital space and one half of the length of the snout. Mouth anterior, without barbels. The dorsal fin is scarcely half as high as the body, its origin being opposite to that of the ventral and midway between the root of the caudal and the eye. Caudal fin deeply forked. The pectoral fin terminates a long way from the ventral.

Coloration uniform.

One specimen from Fao (Persian Gulf), 16 inches long, is in the Natural History Museum.